Health Care Administrative Meetings and Reports

700.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Office recognizes that the delivery of effective health care requires open and frequent communication between the Contract Medical Provider and the Chief Deputy of Corrections or designee. This policy provides guidelines for the continuous monitoring, planning and problem resolution in providing health care that addresses the medical needs of the inmate population and prevents potential outbreaks of communicable and contagious illness.

700.1.2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms and meanings shall apply to all policies in this chapter:

Access to care - An inmate should be seen in a timely manner by a qualified health care professional. The inmate should be given a professional clinical diagnosis and receive treatment that is ordered.

Clinical practice guidelines - A systematically developed science-based statement designed to assist practitioners and inmates with decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. Clinical practice guidelines are used to assist clinical decision-making, assess and assure the quality of care, educate individuals and groups about clinical disease, guide the allocation of health care resources and reduce the risk of legal liability for negligent care.

Clinical setting - An examination or treatment room, either on- or off-site, which is appropriately supplied and equipped to address a patient’s health care needs.

Daily - Seven days a week, including holidays.

Direct order - A written order issued by a qualified health care professional specifically for the treatment of an inmate’s particular condition.

Health authority - The Responsible Healthcare Professional, health services administrator, or health agency responsible for providing all health care services or coordinating the delivery of all health care services.

Health appraisal - A comprehensive health evaluation should be completed within 14 days of an inmate’s arrival at the facility when possible.

Health care - The sum of all actions, preventive and therapeutic, taken for the physical and mental well-being of the inmate population. The term health care includes medical, both physical and psychological, dental, nutrition, and other ancillary services, as well as maintaining safe and sanitary environmental conditions.

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HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Mental health staff - Qualified health care professionals who have received instruction and supervision in identifying and interacting with individuals in need of mental health services.

Physical examination - An objective, hands-on evaluation of an individual. It involves the inspection, palpation, auscultation, and percussion of a body to determine the presence or absence of physical signs of disease.

Responsible Physician/ARNP/PA- An individual licensed to practice medicine and provide health services to the inmate population of the facility, or the physician at an institution with final responsibility for decisions related to medical judgment.

Qualified health care professional - Physicians, physician's assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, mental health professionals, or other persons who, by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients within the parameters of his/her license or certification.

Sick call - The evaluation and treatment of an ambulatory patient, either on- or off-site, by a qualified health care professional.

Special needs - Health conditions that require regular care.

Standing order - Written orders issued by a physician/ARNP that specify the same course of treatment for each patient suspected of having a given condition and the specific use and amount of prescription drugs (e.g., immunizations, insulin, seizure medications).

Suicidal ideation - Having thoughts of suicide or of taking action to end one's own life. Suicidal ideation includes all thoughts of suicide when the thoughts include a plan to commit suicide and when they do not.

Treatment plan - A series of written statements specifying a patient's particular course of therapy and the roles of qualified health care professionals in delivering the care.

Triage - The sorting and classifying of health care requests to determine priority of need and the proper place for health care to be rendered.

700.2 POLICY

The Sheriff or designee will have regular and open communication with the contract medical provider.

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700.2.1 STATISTICAL REPORTS

Monthly reports related to service levels will be provided to the corrections administration. Those reports will include at a minimum statistical data in the following areas:

(a) Nurse services provided.

(b) Sick Call totals.

(c) Medical sick call sessions.

(d) DNA collections.

(e) Outside appointments.

(f) Ambulance transports.

(g) Emergency room visits.

(h) Inmate physicals

(i) Infectious disease monitoring

(j) Dental visits.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Deputy of Corrections or designee to ensure that copies of the statistical reports and documentation of any remedies implemented are retained in accordance with established records retention schedules.

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